



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 29, 2009

## **MAYOR JERRY SANDERS NEWS RELEASE**

### **STIMULUS FUNDS WILL IMPROVE MISSION BAY**

*Mayor Announces \$10.5 Million in Work Planned by Army Corps of Engineers*

San Diego Mayor Jerry Sanders has announced that the Army Corps of Engineers will provide much needed improvements to the City's Mission Bay with funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The Army Corps is set to dredge an increasingly shallow channel leading from the Pacific Ocean into the bay. The Corps is also planning improvements to the jetty revetment protecting the channel.

"This is great news for the City," said Mayor Sanders. "We lobbied very hard to have these projects included in the ARRA stimulus package and our efforts have paid off," he said. The Army Corps has been preparing to undertake these efforts for years and now it will have the funding required to get the jobs done," said the Mayor.

#### **PROJECTS DESIGNED TO IMPROVE PUBLIC SAFETY**

The improvement efforts to be undertaken by the Army Corps will improve public safety in a critical navigation channel in Mission Bay. According to City lifeguards, there have been more than 150 vessel accidents in less than four years in the channel near Bonita Cove. The channel has seen increased silting, reducing navigable depths and causing hazardous wake conditions as boats pass through the area. Channel maintenance dredging has not been undertaken since 1986, and silt has built up, narrowing the channel entrance and creating sand bars in the center of the channel. The channel depth should be approximately 20 feet, but portions of the channel and the deep anchorage now are just 6 feet. Many local businesses and large hotels rely on vessel traffic, which is greatly diminished by access problems.

The Army Corps is also responsible for the deep water anchorage for private vessels in Bonita Cove. The build-up of silt in this cove has created unsafe sand bars and essentially diminished the overall size of the anchorage by 33%.

In addition, the deterioration and collapse of the jetty has caused large rocks to become submerged in relatively shallow water creating other navigational hazards. Repair work is required at various locations along the jetty and the project has been a high priority on the Army Corps maintenance backlog list.

The hazardous conditions near the jetty have been caused by years of storm activity and shifting silt along the jetty. Approximately 200 feet of rock and rip rap have collapsed in the affected areas. The navigational aid once positioned at the end of the jetty was also lost to the ocean. The U.S. Coast Guard now operates a navigational aid on a buoy located approximately 1,300 feet from the end of the jetty, as close as safely possible due to the topography of the ocean floor and wave activity.

However, this gap permits unsafe boating activity to occur, as boats often will enter the channel from the southeast of the buoy rather than the northwest. In the past four years, at least two boats have been lost as they ran aground on the collapsed rip rap from the jetty. The Army Corps' repair work planned for the jetty will provide more accurate navigational aid and safer conditions for boats entering the channel. Once completed, the jetty will extend to its original length, the collapsed rip rap will be removed and a permanent beacon will be affixed to the end of the jetty.

#### **MAYOR SANDERS AND LOCAL LEADERS PREPARING FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDS**

Mayor Sanders has led a region-wide effort to secure funding from the federal stimulus package authorized under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The Mayor, other elected officials and business leaders have travelled to Washington DC in order to describe and secure funding for important projects planned throughout the region. The group has prioritized their lobbying efforts for projects ready to begin in support of regional transportation improvements, water system and supply upgrades, housing and foreclosure assistance efforts, public safety and border infrastructure development. Substantial additional funding from the ARRA is expected for each of these areas in the near future.

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